CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 to 22. *Cancelled*

23. *(Currently amended)* An expression vector comprising a recombinant polynucleotide comprising expression control sequences operatively linked with a first nucleotide sequence encoding an inhibitory polynucleotide comprising an antisense sequence of at least 7 nucleotides that specifically hybridizes to a second nucleotide sequence within an accessible region of the RNA component of a human telomerase (hTR), but that does not hybridize to a third nucleotide sequence within a template region of the hTR, wherein the second nucleotide sequence within an accessible region is selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 137-196, nucleotides 290-319, and nucleotides 350-380 of hTR (SEQ ID NO:16).

24. *Cancelled*

25. *(Previously presented)* The expression vector of claim 23 wherein the expression vector comprises a viral vector or a plasmid vector.

26. *(Previously presented)* The expression vector of claim 25 wherein the expression vector comprises a plasmid vector contained in a liposome.

27. *(Currently amended)* A polynucleotide comprising a sequence of at least 7 nucleotides that specifically hybridizes to a first nucleotide sequence within an accessible region of the RNA component of human telomerase ("hTR"), but that does not hybridize to a second nucleotide sequence within a template region of the hTR, wherein the first nucleotide sequence within the accessible region is selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 137-196, nucleotides 290-319, and nucleotides 350-380 of hTR (SEQ ID NO:16), and wherein the polynucleotide

comprises a nucleotide analog or a non-naturally occurring nucleotide linkage selected from the group consisting of phosphorothioates, phosphoramidates, methyl phosphonates, chiral-methyl phosphonates, 2-O-methyl ribonucleotides and peptide-nucleic acids.

28. *(Previously presented)* A polynucleotide according to claim 27, when the polynucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:
CGT TCC TCT TCC TGC GGC CTG AAA CGG TGA (SEQ ID NO:2)
CGT TCC TCT TCC TGC GGC CT (SEQ ID NO:3)
CGT TCC TCT TCC (SEQ ID NO:4)
CTG ACA GAG CCC AAC TCT TCG CGG TGG CAG (SEQ ID NO. 5)
CTG ACA GAG CCC AAC TCT TC (SEQ ID NO:6)
CCA ACT CTT CGC GGT GGC AG (SEQ ID NO:7)
GCT CTA GAA TGA ACG GTG GAA GGC GGC AGG (SEQ ID NO:8)
GCT CTA GAA TGA ACG GTG G (SEQ ID NO.9)
GCT CTA GAA TGA ACG (SEQ ID NO:10)
GCT CTA GAA TG (SEQ ID NO:11)
GCT CTA G (SEQ ID NO:12)
CAT TTT TTG TTT GCT CTA GA (SEQ ID NO:13) and
CGG GCC AGC AGC TGA CA (SEQ ID NO:14).

29. *(Previously presented)* A polynucleotide consisting essentially of a sequence selected from the group consisting of:
CGT TCC TCT TCC TGC GGC CTG AAA CGG TGA (SEQ ID NO:2)
CGT TCC TCT TCC TGC GGC CT (SEQ ID NO:3)
CGT TCC TCT TCC (SEQ ID NO:4)
CTG ACA GAG CCC AAC TCT TCG CGG TGG CAG (SEQ ID NO. 5)
CTG ACA GAG CCC AAC TCT TC (SEQ ID NO:6)

CCA ACT CTT CGC GGT GGC AG (SEQ ID NO:7)

GCT CTA GAA TGA ACG GTG GAA GGC GGC AGG (SEQ ID NO:8)

GCT CTA GAA TGA ACG GTG G (SEQ ID NO.9)

GCT CTA GAA TGA ACG (SEQ ID NO:10)

GCT CTA GAA TG (SEQ ID NO:11)

GCT CTA G (SEQ ID NO:12)

CAT TTT TTG TTT GCT CTA GA (SEQ ID NO:13) and

CGG GCC AGC AGC TGA CA (SEQ ID NO:14).